

2/28/2015

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Having been a dedicated fisherperson since I was 5 years old, first fishing in Stanley Quarter Park in New Britain, then eventually moving to the great streams, rivers and lakes in CT, I want to add my support to keeping Kensington Hatchery operational and removing it from the list of cuts proposed in the governor's budget. The Kensington hatchery generates more money for our state than it costs, and it provides unique recreational and environmental benefits that would be forever lost, if the hatchery is closed.

A brief summary of the facts below may help:

- 2011 study by the CT Center for Economic Analysis at UConn reports that \$38 in economic activity is generated by every \$1 our state spends on natural resources.
- Decreased fish stocking will lead to less angler hours realized, less tourism, less revenue for small businesses and therefore less tax and license revenue for CT. The current stocking programs generate roughly 2 million angler hours and approximately \$60 million in revenue.
- The closing of Kensington would eliminate less than \$195,000 in a multi-billion dollar budget.
- Our other two hatcheries are operating at maximum and will be unable to make up for the loss of Kensington's capacity and unique elements such as chilled water capability and uniquely favorable well water. Closing Kensington Hatchery would end the brood stock salmon stocking program in CT, eliminating 7,000 Atlantic salmon fishing trips per year. Valuable genetic traits defining Connecticut River salmon will also be lost forever. Our successful Seeforellen Brown trout strain will be lost, as will much of the trophy brown trout and sea run trout programs that generate significant tourism revenue.
- The award winning Salmon-in-Schools Program would be terminated after this school year which would affect over 60 schools and more than 6,000 Connecticut students each year. Another approximate 9,000 schoolchildren in 110 schools will lose the Trout in the Classroom Program due to the need for chilled water during egg development, which is only available at Kensington. These very cost-effective educational programs also develop environmental awareness in kids.

I therefore strongly urge you to find the funds needed to keep the Kensington Hatchery operational.

Sincerely,

Daniel Price
104 Weigands Drive
New Britain, CT 06052
860-612-0454